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--82. A method for treating pain in an animal, which comprises:

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topically applying to said animal a gelled composition comprising a therapeutically effective dose of diclofenac ~~or a derivative thereof~~ uniformly distributed in a polymer matrix which is suspended in a liquid medium;

wherein the polymer matrix contains sodium hyaluronate combined with a nonionic polymer.--

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 45-82 are pending in the application. The specification has been amended to correct inadvertent errors of a typographical, grammatical or clerical nature. Claims 1-44 have been canceled and claims 45-82 have been added to more clearly define applicants' inventive subject matter.

Basis for the newly added claims is found throughout the specification, and particularly at page 5, lines 6-31; page 10, lines 9-19; and page 14, lines 13-16; and page 17, line 33 through page 18, line 25. Therefore, applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 132. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable action with early allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

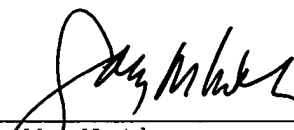
The Examiner is welcome to telephone the undersigned attorney with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

**NATH & ASSOCIATES**

Date:

April 8, 1999

  
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